

## **LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1. **(cancelled)**
2. **(currently amended)** The analyzer system of claim 35 [[1]], wherein the washing device comprises a complete, closed wash ring surrounding the instruments over an angle of 360°.
3. **(currently amended)** The analyzer system of claim 35 [[1]], wherein the washing device is constrained for guided movement along the vertical guide.
4. **(currently amended)** The analyzer system of claim 35 [[1]], wherein the washing device is disposed vertically below the instrument holder.
5. **(currently amended)** The analyzer system of claim 2 [[1]], wherein at least two jet orifices are distributed over an internal circumference of the wash ring.
6. **(original)** The analyzer system of claim 5, wherein the jet orifices are disposed at substantially equal angular intervals.
7. **(original)** The analyzer system of claim 5, wherein the jet orifices are disposed substantially at diametrically opposed locations.
8. **(original)** The analyzer system of claim 5, wherein the jet orifices are disposed at angular intervals of at least 10° and less than 180°.
9. **(original)** The analyzer system of claim 5, wherein the jet orifices are disposed at angular intervals of 15° to 20°.

10. **(currently amended)** The analyzer system of claim 35 [[1]], wherein the jet orifice is disposed on a circumference of larger diameter than an internal opening width of the wash ring.
11. **(currently amended)** The analyzer system of claim 35 [[1]], wherein the washing device has at least one wash ring with a common opening for all of the instruments.
12. **(currently amended)** The analyzer system of claim 35 [[1]], wherein the orifice has a diameter of at least 0.3 mm.
13. **(previously presented)** The analyzer system of claim 12, wherein the orifice has a diameter of at least 0.5 mm.
14. **(previously presented)** The analyzer system of claim 13, wherein the orifice has a diameter of 0.3 to 0.8 mm.
15. **(currently amended)** The analyzer system of claim 35 [[1]], wherein the jet orifice is aimed at a predetermined downward angle.
16. **(original)** The analyzer system of claim 15, wherein the predetermined downward angle is substantially between 15° and 40°.
17. **(original)** The analyzer system of claim 16, wherein the predetermined downward angle is substantially between 20° and 30°.
18. **(currently amended)** The analyzer system of claim 37 [[1]], wherein the wash ring has a distributor channel for the wash fluid extending along a perimeter of said wash ring.

19. **(currently amended)** The analyzer system of claim 18 [[1]], wherein the jet orifice has an orifice cross-section and the distributor channel has a channel cross-section that is larger than the orifice cross-section.
20. **(original)** The analyzer system of claim 19, wherein the channel cross-section is at least five times as large as the orifice cross-section.
21. **(original)** The analyzer system of claim 20, wherein the channel cross-section is ten to fifty times as large as the orifice cross-section.
22. **(currently amended)** The analyzer system of claim 35 [[1]], wherein the washing device has at least two rows of jet orifices arranged one below the other.
23. **(original)** The analyzer system of claim 22, wherein the rows of jet orifices are arranged on different wash rings.
24. **(original)** The analyzer system of claim 23, wherein the washing device comprises wash rings that are movable in relation to each other.
25. **(currently amended)** The analyzer system of claim 35 [[1]], wherein the supply conduit comprises a supply channel extending at least partially in parallel with the vertical guide.
26. **(original)** The analyzer system of claim 23, further comprising a centering device interposed between the instrument holder and the washing device.
27. **(currently amended)** The analyzer system of claim 35 [[1]], further comprising a drive source that moves the instrument holder along the vertical guide.
28. **(original)** The analyzer system of claim 27, wherein the drive source also moves the washing device along the vertical guide.

29. **(previously presented)** The analyzer system of claim 27, further comprising a take-along constraint allowing a limited range of relative movement between the instrument holder and the washing device.

30-34. **(cancelled)**

35. **(new)** An analyzer system for immersing at least two instruments into a sample and removing the instruments therefrom, comprising:

a vertical guide;

an instrument holder constrained to move along the vertical guide to selectively immerse or remove the instruments, the instrument holder comprising a holder element with at least two receptacles, each receptacle arranged to receive and hold one of the at least two instruments;

a washing device with a central opening, positioned between the instrument holder and the sample such that the central opening and the holder element are maintained in co-axial relationship as the at least two instruments pass through the central opening, the washing device comprising a jet orifice and a supply conduit for a wash fluid, communicated to the jet orifice

36. **(new)** The analyzer system of claim 35, wherein:

the instrument holder has an opening in which the holder element is removably seated.

37. **(new)** The analyzer system of claim 35, wherein:

the washing device is a wash ring and the jet orifice is aimed radially inward to the central opening to spray the wash fluid at a portion of the instruments passing through the central opening.

38. **(new)** The analyzer system of claim 35, wherein:

the washing device is separate from and movable in relation to the instrument holder.